

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEVERLY CAMP

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dear friend, Beverly "Bev" Camp, of Bakersfield, California. After battling cancer for nearly two years, Bev passed away on February 19, 2022, surrounded by loved ones.

Born in Queens, New York, Bev entered the world on July 29, 1962 to two loving parents. As the youngest of three children, she was curious and patient, always putting others before herself. In 1979, when Bev was 17, her family packed their bags and moved out to Bakersfield, California—the city where Bev would meet her husband and partner in life, raise three beautiful children, and make countless contributions to our community.

A woman of faith and compassion, Bev devoted her time to charitable causes. As a member of Catholic Charities, Bev advanced the launch of Harvest of Hope, an annual fundraiser that provides financial support to low-income families facing hardship, and helped found the organization's Career and Education Center, which helps students develop career skills for future employment. Along with her husband Jim, Bev's philanthropic efforts were impactful to many other community initiatives. In 2019, the pair helped establish the county's first burn unit at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital and more recently, were leading the expansion project for Mercy Hospital Southwest to address the growing needs of Bakersfield residents.

In recognition of her efforts, Bev was regularly recognized with awards by local organizations, including Community Action Partnership of Kern County's Humanitarian of the Year, the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Community Service Award, and Garden Pathways' Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield.

Above all, Bev loved her family. She enjoyed watching her kids grow and took pride in the Sunday family dinners she cooked after church. Bev is survived by her husband Jim; her parents Bruce and Margaret Murray; and her three sons, Bruce and wife, Kayla; Kurt and wife, Montse; and Scott.

On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, it is my privilege to honor Bev's life and the remarkable service and impact she had on our community. My thoughts and prayers are with her loved ones as they mourn the loss of an incredible woman.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JONATHAN DIAZ

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Officer Jonathan Diaz as the California legislature dedicates the Lemoore overpass for Highway 198 and 19th Avenue in his honor.

A Huron native, Mr. Diaz graduated from Coalinga High School. He went on to earn his associates degree in criminal justice from West Hills College. Following his passion for serving his community, he joined the Huron Police Department as a reserve police officer during the summer of 2014. Just one year later, he was named Officer of the Year by the Huron Police Department. He would later join the Lemoore Police Department in 2016, where he earned Officer of the Year in 2018.

Mr. Diaz was equally committed to helping those in his community outside of his regular duties. He was involved in the Youth Adult Awareness Program, where he helped to mentor and guide at-risk children in the community. He also participated in developing juvenile awareness programs to teach local youth about the realities of prison and incarceration and put them on a path to success. Through his dedication to his community and his commitment to service, Mr. Diaz uplifted so many during his life.

Mr. Diaz's courage, dedication, professionalism, and selflessness was well-known throughout his entire department. He played a vital role in solving a significant number of cases, helping to bring justice to those he swore to protect. While he is missed by his loved ones every day, his service still inspires us all.

I ask all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and service of Officer Jonathan Diaz of the Lemoore Police Department.

HONORING ATTORNEY YEMI KINGS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Attorney Yemi Kings from Jackson, Mississippi.

He graduated from Lanier High School and went on to Tougaloo College. Then, received his law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2009. Little did the Kings realize that when he valiantly saved the life of a man, who was tragically shot on Thanksgiving Day in 2021, in Jackson, that he was walking straight into fame's arena.

On Thanksgiving Day 2021, around 4:30 p.m., when there was still a glimmer of day-

light outside, Kings' friends and family were eating dinner. During the celebration, they heard about 15-gun shots from what sounded like an assault rifle close to where they gathered. Then they heard someone yelling, "I have been shot."

Kings went outside and saw a man lying on the ground in a pool of gushing blood. He was crying, screaming, and saying, "Please help me! Don't let me die!" After calling 911, Kings asked him where he was shot. The victim replied, "I can't feel my arm! Help me! I have been shot! I am fading out! I am dying!" Kings grabbed sweaters and shirts from a car, wrapped them in layers and pressed them on the bullet wound until the bleeding stopped. "I kept pressure on his wound and continued talking to him, telling him that he was going to live." Kings said.

Firefighters came and took over. They told everyone to step aside as they did their job.

The good Samaritan who courageously saved the person's life was Deputy Hinds County Attorney Yemi L. Kings.

When asked what motivated him to be so daring in such a dangerous escapade, he said, "One thing that came to mind was that I had to try to help save this man's life. As a prosecutor, I am always helping people on the other side of tragic situations. I never thought I would ever come that close to a shooting or a shooting victim."

Kings is the son of Yemi L. Kings and Terri Lyn Smith.

Kings' motivation is his family. He comes from a large family that includes four brothers, two sisters and one son. He wants to continue being there for his loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Attorney Yemi Kings for his dedication to serving.

MICHIGAN WORLD WAR II LEGACY MEMORIAL

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Michigan World War II (WWII) Legacy Memorial, which will take place in Royal Oak, Michigan on April 7, 2022.

This effort has been a fifteen-year labor of love for a dedicated group of volunteers, many of whom had family members who served in the military, including in World War II, and some who are veterans themselves. In 2007, Honor Flight Michigan began providing one-day trips to Washington, D.C. to allow World War II veterans to visit the national World War II Memorial on the National Mall. Between 2007 and 2010, Honor Flight Michigan operated 33 flights, ensuring that all 1,400 veterans on its waiting list made the trip to our nation's capital. The group then committed itself to creating a memorial in Michigan. Its intent is best described in the words of the organization itself: "The Michigan WWII Legacy

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Memorial will serve as a place to gather, remember, and inspire. It is a memorial designed with the desire to engage the community and educate future generations on the vision, values, and heroic efforts of the Greatest Generation."

The organization chose Royal Oak as the location for the memorial because of its central location in the heart of Southeast Michigan, and with the strong support of the City of Royal Oak to host the memorial at Memorial Park on Woodward Avenue and Thirteen Mile Road. The memorial has been designed to be educational and interactive and as a center of community activities as well as serving as a place for contemplation and remembrance.

This week, after fifteen years of work, ground will be broken for the construction of this important tribute to a defining point in history and to the vital contributions millions of Americans made to the essential cause of winning World War II. So many people have played important roles in guiding this project to this significant day, and it would be impossible to name all of them. But I would like to recognize the Board of Directors of the Michigan World War II Legacy Memorial for their efforts: President John Maten, Vice-President Chris Graveline, Secretary Kim Jones, Treasurer J. Michael Mastantuono; board members Debi Hollis, Russell Levine, Judy Maten, Ryan Friedrichs and Molly Gale; and Honorary Director Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson who served in the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. I would also like to recognize two members of the board who sadly passed away before this occasion: Michael Cameron and former Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the groundbreaking of the Michigan World War II Legacy Memorial, which I have no doubt will be viewed as a jewel in Southeast Michigan, and in congratulating all those who made vital contributions to this truly momentous occasion.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LOTTERY

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Massachusetts State Lottery as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since selling its first ticket on March 22, 1972, the Mass Lottery has generated over \$137 billion in revenues, returning over \$29 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These funds have been distributed to all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts as unrestricted local aid, supporting a wide range of initiatives, including public safety, snow removal, road improvements, school staffing and services, programs for seniors, and parks and recreation projects.

The Mass Lottery has awarded over \$96 billion in prizes to its loyal customers. Prize winners have been able to put their winnings toward the purchase of homes, sending their kids to college, opening their own businesses, covering medical expenses and making donations to charitable organizations.

The Mass Lottery has been a valuable source of additional income for thousands of businesses across the state, and collectively the Mass Lottery's retail partners have earned over \$7.8 billion in commissions and bonuses over the last fifty years.

Under the guidance of the Mass Lottery, Charitable Gaming events have given non-profit organizations in Massachusetts opportunities to raise money to support their causes while providing social entertainment in their communities.

Over the last five decades, Mass Lottery employees have worked diligently to build the Mass Lottery into one of the most successful lotteries in the world. In turn, the Mass Lottery has been a valuable employer in the state, offering a wide range of career opportunities with pathways for advancement within the organization.

The Mass Lottery will be commemorating "50 Years of Winning" throughout 2022 by showing its appreciation for the customers, retailers, communities and employees who are a part of its amazing success story.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the Massachusetts State Lottery as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

REMEMBERING ALCEE HASTINGS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. COHEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one-year anniversary of the passing of Representative Alcee Hastings, a civil rights advocate and active leader of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) for more than twenty years. His work included promoting principled foreign policy, human rights, strengthened democracy across Europe, domestic and international election observations, and diversity and inclusion at all levels of government and foreign policy decision making. Alcee Hastings passed away on April 6, 2021.

As a U.S. Helsinki Commissioner, Rep. Hastings served as Ranking Member, Co-Chairman, and twice as Chairman from 2007–2008 and 2019–2020. He was the first African American Chair of the Commission, and over the full span of his time on the Commission, visited all 57 participating States (pS) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), 11 Asian and Mediterranean OSCE Partners for Co-operation countries, and attended over three dozen meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA).

In addition to holding various leadership positions at the U.S. Helsinki Commission, Alcee Hastings also held offices with the OSCE PA, including Rapporteur of the First Committee on Political Affairs and Security, Vice Chair of the First Committee, Chair of the First Committee, Special Representative of Mediterranean Affairs, Vice President of the OSCE PA, President of the OSCE PA, and President Emeritus of the OSCE PA. Alcee remains the only American to hold the office of President of the 323-member body.

Alcee brought attention to several issues throughout the OSCE region and pushed to le-

gitimize U.S. authority on human rights standards. He was a staunch opponent of Russian attempts to undermine security and stability in Europe and beyond, holding hearings as Chair on Russia's support for separatists and introducing legislation aiding Georgia following the 2008 invasion by Russia and supporting Ukraine's democratic gains since the 2004 Orange Revolution. He was an outspoken supporter of Europe's largest ethnic minority, the Roma, and he led efforts to address anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish violence in OSCE pS. Alcee was deeply engaged in the Middle East peace process, improving relations with Mediterranean partners, protections for minorities in the Kosovo independence plan, and strengthening democracy and expansion within the European Union. Thanks to his efforts stressing the importance of having election observers monitor U.S. elections, the OSCE PA held its first election observation mission in the U.S. in 2002.

Representative Hastings believed that diversity and inclusion in foreign policy was critical for upholding democratic values. This included equal representation across different racial, ethnic, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious and geographic communities, including youth participation. He held hearings, introduced legislation, supported programs at the State Department and fellowship programs geared towards promoting minority participation, and worked with European partners on initiatives to meet this end.

Alcee Hastings was born in Altamonte Springs, Florida and received his bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his law degree from Florida A&M University. Prior to serving in government, he tirelessly fought racial injustice as a civil rights lawyer and activist. In 1979, Representative Hastings became the first African American Federal Judge in the State of Florida when President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the bench. When elected to Congress in 1992, he was one of the first three African Americans to represent Florida since the reconstruction era. He has long championed the rights of minorities, women, the elderly, children, and immigrants.

It was an honor to serve with Representative Alcee Hastings in Congress and to have the privilege to work with him on the Helsinki Commission. He was the reason I sought appointment. I am proud to have called him my friend and will be forever grateful to him for introducing me to the Commission on which I now serve as Co-Chairman. He is remembered by all here and at the OSCE PA. His was a life well-lived.

HONORING HAZEL A. WILSON AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hazel Wilson, whom I have named the 2022 Woman of the Year in Solano County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in Bristow, Oklahoma, Mrs. Wilson graduated from Langston University, an historically Black university, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. After her graduation, she moved to Vallejo, California, in 1973, where she co-founded the Kappa Beta Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Kappa Beta Omega Chapter focuses on introducing students to the different options of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the benefits of attending these schools.

Mrs. Wilson also served on the Vallejo City Unified School District governing board for 14 years and still attends their meetings to support Vallejo students by addressing community concerns to the district and its board.

As a Community Liaison Volunteer for the CC and Amber Sabathia PitCCh-In Foundation, Mrs. Wilson has worked to provide free backpacks and school supplies to elementary school children and teachers in Vallejo. She also contributes to an annual scholarship for a high school senior who will be attending an historically Black college or university.

Mrs. Wilson is an advocate and a consensus builder for students across the city. Through her extensive work with the school district and other non-profits like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the African American Alliance of Vallejo, and the Solano County Chapter of the Link, Inc., she has directly impacted the lives of so many children.

Her husband, a retired teacher, Michael Wilson and their two children, Michael Wilson III, a teacher, and Andrinee Wilson-Tucker, Ph.D., a psychologist, also graduated from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Mrs. Wilson's family and the rest of the community describe her as incredibly compassionate, dignified, and motivated in supporting students with their education.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Hazel Wilson has dedicated her life to the students of Vallejo through her public service. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING LEE SYKES, OWNER OF TOW BOAT US BEAUFORT, AND CREW MEMBERS JOHNATHON EVANS, JAY BOONE, CROCKETT HENDERSON, LUIS HERRON AND JOHN WILSON

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a tribute to the heroic crew members of Tow Boat US Beaufort (TBUS). On February 13, 2022, TBUS was alerted to a possible downed aircraft east of Cape Lookout shoals near Drum Inlet. This aircraft was comprised of eight individuals, including four high school students. The honorable crew quickly departed towards the vicinity of the last known position of the aircraft. At this time, weather conditions were deteriorating, and seas were a rough 3 to 5 feet.

The wreckage of the aircraft was found before dark, and it was clear that there were likely no possible survivors. The next morning, emergency services called TBUS seeking their assistance in locating the aircraft on the sea

floor. While local first responders focused on chasing floating debris offshore, the TBUS crew investigated where the plane struck the water using sonar to locate the wreckage. By 4:00 PM on February 14, 2022, TBUS confirmed they had found the crash site and had remotely operated vehicle footage of the debris on the bottom. That night, TBUS crews would be tasked with running the dive operations, while providing divers and surface support for body recovery.

The next day, February 15, 2022, TBUS had put together a dive plan and divers to try and access the aircraft. Water temperatures were around 52 degrees on the surface, the current was running approximately 3.9 knots on the bottom in 60 feet of water, and seas were rough at 3 to 5 feet, making this an extraordinarily difficult dive to achieve with limited bottom time. TBUS crews worked until the next day, when all the remains had been recovered for the families. While this was a strenuous job, the selfless heroes at TBUS thought it was a necessary mission to help the grieving families of the victims. Putting divers in during small craft conditions, 50-degree water, and heavy currents makes for very dangerous conditions that highlight the heroic actions of the TBUS crew.

TBUS crew members involved were Lee Sykes, Johnathon Evans, Jay Boone, Crockett Henderson, Luis Herron and John Wilson. None of this would have been possible were it not for the selflessness and servant attitude of the aforementioned members. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring these incredible and wonderful heroes.

RECOGNIZING MR. RONALD
d'ARTENAY, Sr.

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ronald "Ron" d'Artenay, Sr., who passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Mr. d'Artenay was born in Hanford, California on June 29, 1943. He was raised in nearby Kettleman City where he first began helping his father on the farm. His interest in farming and agriculture continued to grow while attending Avenal High School.

After graduation, Mr. d'Artenay chose to stay in the industry and started his first business, d'Artenay Hay Service, early in his career. In the 1980s, he started d'Artenay Farms in Coalinga, California, where he successfully grew pistachios for over thirty years.

Mr. d'Artenay was also a fixture in the local racing community. He served as a founding member and president of the Avenal Sand Drags Association. He became known for his sand drag race car, 'The Red Warrior.' Mr. d'Artenay was a valued member of our local community, and it is with great pride that I recognize him for his service to the Central Valley.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Ronald "Ron" d'Artenay, Sr.

IN MEMORIAM—ROBERT "BOB"
FOOTE

HON. TRACEY MANN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the memory of Bob Foote, a tremendous Kansan who passed away on March 25th. Bob was a man of many talents. He built one of the largest cattle operations in America, feeding 550,000 head a year and employing 400. He and his wife Gail also built an amazing family who will carry on his legacy and lead the Foote Cattle Company into the future.

Bob had tenacity, grit, confidence, and he wasn't afraid to embrace an aggressive approach to business. His motto was "Get It"—which he would say to remind those around him to never give up and keep pushing forward. Bob was a staunch conservative who could often be found giving one of his trademark "Bob Foote lectures" on politics. He was a true patriot, and most importantly, now that he has gone on to heaven, he was a man of great faith.

From the farm and headquarters in eastern Kansas, to ranchland in the Flint Hills, to feed yards in Western Kansas. I am hard pressed to think of any Ag producer who had such an impact on the entirety of Kansas agriculture. Whether he was buying cattle or sharing his faith and work ethic with his grandchildren, Bob believed that he should use the talents that God gave him to be the best man he could be. He is now able to reunite with his beloved Colleen and together watch over his legacy—the Foote Cattle Company—and gaze proudly on his spouse Gail and sons Scott, Brad, and Greg as they continue to lead the industry and Kansas Agriculture forward.

May Bob Foote rest in peace.

HONORING BLACK ORGANIZATION
100 BLACK MEN OF GRENADA, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resilient organization that is doing great things in their community, 100 Black Men of Grenada, Inc.

The 100 Black Men of Grenada, Inc., received a charter from the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., in 2008 to serve the African American and other disadvantaged youth in Grenada and the contiguous counties.

Since organizing, the 100 Black Men of Grenada, Inc., has developed many strong partnerships with a diverse group of individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies. This has resulted in many valuable services for youth and community.

Some of their key accomplishments of the chapter are: Establishing the "Eagles" Mentoring Program for the Grenada School District, sponsoring College Fairs and ACT preparation sessions for area high schools, sponsoring out of town educational and enrichment field trips for area youth, etc.

The services of the men of the 100 Black Men of Grenada have greatly benefited the

local community, and, has resulted in the Chapter being selected as the 2020–2021 Small Chapter of the Year by the 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

The 100 Black Men of Grenada also established a partnership with the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center to refer, mentor and assist enrollees with clothing, college books, scholarships, and other needs. They also organized the first 100 Black Men of America Collegiate affiliate in Mississippi at Rust College.

Moreover, they have operated a successful Summer Educational Enrichment and Mentoring (SEEM) Program in partnership with the 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc., the Mississippi Department of Human Services, and key local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100 Black Men of Grenada, Inc., for their resilience and the hard work they do for their community.

CELEBRATING THE COMMITTED
SERVICE OF COMMAND SER-
GEANT MAJOR MICHAEL P.
GEDEON

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the committed service of Command Sergeant Major Michael Gedeon.

CMS Gedeon has been a fearless leader and public servant since he joined the Army on November 24, 1982. Serving 39 years of Active and Reserve Army service, he has shown tremendous courage and dedication to this country.

Following Basic Training and Advanced Initial Training, he was allocated to the 1st Signal Battalion in Kaiserslautern West Germany from 1983 to 1985, and afterward served in the 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division.

CSM Gedeon was deployed from 2004 to 2005 and 2009 to 2010 to Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy, Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Returning to American soil, he entered the US Army Reserve in the HHC second Psychological Operations Group and settled in Parma Ohio.

As a life-long learner, CSM Gedeon started his military education with the Combat Lifesaver Course and ultimately ending with the Battalion Pre-Command Course in 2015.

Since 1987, he has served in various second POG—non combat—units and rose through the ranks to ultimately become a Command Sergeant Major in February of 2013. The rank of CMS is the most senior enlisted member of a color-bearing Army unit, and serves as a spokesman to address all the issues of soldiers to the unit commander. He also began working as the Director of Instruction in the twelfth/100th CA/MISO Training Battalion.

In the latter half of his military career, CSM Gedeon accepted his first Command Sergeant Major assignment for the 16th Psychological Operations Battalion in Fort Sheridan, Illinois in January of 2014. His second assignment was the 11th Psychological Operations Battalion in White Plains, Maryland in April of

2016 to July of 2019 and his final assignment was in February of 2019, as the 2nd Psychological Operations Group Command Sergeant Major.

With over 3 decades of experience, the Army has honored CSM Gedeon with multiple awards signifying his dedication and service to this country. His many decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and many others.

After a lifetime of service at home and abroad, CSM Gedeon is now retired from duty and currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio where he works at a law firm and parents two young daughters, Paige and Molly.

A huge congratulations to Hon. CSM Michael P. Gedeon. We thank him for his service.

CONGRATULATING ENTERPRISE
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor an outstanding group of young men from my hometown who represented both their school and state this season.

Enterprise Native, Head Coach, and friend, Coach Rhett Harrelson, led his team to their first-ever Wildcat 7A championship win. This team showed dedication and determination this season as they rallied around one another for the final game. To the players, Keion Dunlap, Jordan Hines, Elijah Terry, Tomar Hobdy, Kenneth Mitchell, Jr., Tre Kemmerlin, Mykel Johnson, Eric Winters, Dylan Baldwin, Tristan Agard, Quentin Hayes, Matther Reed, Nick Roberts, Talmadge Sessions, and Reese Dowling, cherish this win and continue to represent the wildcats with the same attitude you showed throughout the season and through long hours of practice. You knew as a team what it meant to get to this point in your basketball career and how to accomplish the goals you set for your team and yourself. Celebrate this win and remember the legacy you are creating as the first team in Enterprise history to win the championship.

To assistant coaches and staff Clark Quisenberry, John Wadsworth, and Keith Sesions, I thank them for molding these students into the young men that we see today. I thank them for their dedication to their student-athletes as they worked long hours to teach them not only how to play the game well, but also how to love the sport. I know they will cherish this win and will continue to mentor students for years to come.

To the fans, we thank them for always going the extra mile to be at games and always making sure their team was represented throughout the season.

As a fellow wildcat, I want to honor this amazing team for all that they have accomplished, and I can't wait to see their legacy continue. May this commemoration forever be preserved.

AFFORDABLE INSULIN NOW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Pharma Bro Martin Shkreli should have dozens of jailbird colleagues for the unethical practices of many in the pharmaceutical industry. There is no question that the price of insulin, EpiPens, asthma inhalers and hundreds of other drugs are multiple times what they should be and that needs to change. While I support the goal of H.R. 6833, as written the bill does nothing to actually lower the price of insulin—and zero for other drugs. The bill simply mandates that the out-of-pocket cost not exceed \$35 for insulin. If you think insurance companies are just going to eat this extra cost then I've got a bridge to sell. Insurance companies will simply increase premiums to cover the extra cost. This means everyone pays more. It's a shell game. Obamacare has been a mess and that law doesn't need any help in further raising insurance premiums. For that reason, I will vote 'NAY' for the bill. The solution here is to actually lower the cost of the prescriptions. This can be done by stopping patent abuse by pharmaceutical companies, allowing importation of drugs from countries with appropriate quality control, and incentivizing generic manufacturers. H.R. 19 is a bill that takes steps in the right direction. I would vote for that, but I am working with another bipartisan group on a better solution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on Roll Call No. 108 on April 4, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 108.

HONORING ROY SEKINE FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF
KERN, CALIFORNIA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roy Sekine on his retirement from the County of Kern in California after 31 years of service to our community.

A friend and public servant, Roy attended college at California State University, Bakersfield, graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. While still a college senior, Roy began working at the Kern County Library—which currently serves over 850,000 county residents—as a systems coordinator. Maintaining his employment with the organization upon graduation, Roy spent the next six years transforming the library system. Roy's tireless efforts led to the installation of the first public internet terminal at Beale Library, the

implementation of Netscape browsers throughout the 30 County Library Branches, and a swift transition to the electronic book checkout system for Kern County residents.

One year after transferring to the Bakersfield Municipal Court in 1997, Roy was recruited to the Kern County Department of Child Support Services (KCDCSS). Named the Local Area Network Systems Administrator for KDCSS, Roy led critical improvements to the Department's technology systems for over 20 years, enabling the organization to better assist parents and youth in our community. With a savviness in computer networking and operations management, Roy helped start the KIDZ Child Support Program and implement the State of California's CASES Child Support Program locally. Additionally, when the coronavirus pandemic forced KDCSS operations online, Roy helped County staff work through technological issues so they could continue to serve Kern County residents in a seamless fashion.

Roy's service to Kern County is undeniable. In 2020, he was recognized with the KDCSS Values Award for Teamwork for his patience, work ethic, and respect for all. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I want to thank my good friend Roy for his unwavering commitment to bettering our community and Kern County government that serves many of my constituents. Judy and I wish him the best as he enters this new chapter in his life.

HONORING DR. BRIANNA
THOMPSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and innovative woman, Dr. Brianna Thompson. Dr. Thompson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Dr. Brianna Thompson has been awarded top honors with the 2022 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA), which recognizes African-American scientists and engineers around the country. The winners chosen are leaders shaping the future of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEM pipeline. She was recognized at this year's BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C. Feb. 17 through 19.

Dr. Thompson began her career at ERDC in ITL three years ago as a mathematician and was chosen for the BEYA Modern-Day Technology Leader Award. Her research in hypersonic systems evaluation and design and the coupling of fluid, thermal and structure models for computational simulation of hypersonic systems is making a difference and advancing the capabilities of the Army and the DOD in developing state-of-the-art solutions to challenging problems. Dr. Thompson earned her doctorate degree in computational science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Brianna Thompson for

her passion and dedication to the field of Engineering.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INSPECTOR GENERAL TRANSPARENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5633. This bill requires the OIG to submit to Congress any report that substantiates a violation of specified provisions regarding prohibited personnel practices, protected communications, or retaliatory personnel actions.

The bill also requires the OIG to submit to Congress any report about a violation of Presidential Personnel Directive-19 (protecting whistleblowers with access to classified information); or an allegation of misconduct, waste, fraud, abuse, or a violation of policy within DHS involving a senior DHS official.

The OIG must make each report publicly available on its website, with some exceptions.

The bill requires the OIG's semiannual reports to include specified information regarding ongoing audits, inspections, and evaluations.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of this bill cannot be understated. Inspectors General are incredibly important in the justice process, and especially so when Homeland Security is under review.

The Department of Homeland Security has one of the hardest jobs of all federal agencies: protecting the homeland from terror.

As a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am fervently committed to overseeing and improving the Department of Homeland Security and keeping America safe from terrorism.

One way we do that is through enforcing accountability in all the Department's functions, which is the purpose of this bill.

To underscore its importance, I want to remind this body of critical reports from the Office of Inspector General in the Department of Homeland Security in 2018 and 2019. They brought to light the cruel humanitarian situation migrants were suffering through under the previous administration's zero-tolerance immigration policies.

In 2018, the Office of Inspector General released a scathing report detailing the previous administration's child separation policy.

The details of the report were damning. Specifically, it stated that: Department of Homeland Security was not prepared to deal with the staggering repercussions of separating children from their parents and there was no computer or automated system to facilitate the reunification of parents after they have been separated.

The OIG determined that, despite a 72-hour limit on the time a child may be separated from their parents, many children were separated for five days, and some as long as a dozen days.

The report concluded that the government failed to adequately notify parents of the child separation policy, and the process to initiate reunification.

The OIG found that government officials gave inconsistent information to parents arriv-

ing at the border, which had the effect of instilling confusion at these ports of entry.

The report made special note of how the former Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristjen Nielsen signed off on the actions which led to the child separation policy, which is in stark contrast to Secretary Nielsen's May 15, 2018, testimony to the United States Senate.

In another report published in 2019, the Office of Inspector General discussed the pitiful conditions for those being held in detention facilities along the border.

During the Inspector General's visits to five Border Patrol facilities and two ports of entry in the Rio Grande Valley, they reviewed compliance with CBP's Transport, Escort, Detention and Search (TEDS) standards, which govern CBP's interaction with detained individuals, and observed serious overcrowding and prolonged detention of unaccompanied alien children (UACs), families, and single adults that require immediate attention.

Specifically, Border Patrol was holding about 8,000 detainees in custody at the time of our visit, with 3,400 held longer than the 72 hours generally permitted under the TEDS standards. Of those 3,400 detainees, Border Patrol held 1,500 for more than 10 days.

In addition to the overcrowding they observed, Border Patrol's custody data indicates that 826 (31 percent) of the 2,669 children at these facilities had been held longer than the 72 hours generally permitted under the TEDS standards and the Flores Agreement.

For example, of the 1,031 UACs held at the Centralized Processing Center in McAllen, TX, 806 had already been processed and were awaiting transfer to HHS custody. Of the 806 that were already processed, 165 had been in custody longer than a week.

Additionally, there were more than 50 UACs younger than 7 years old, and some of them had been in custody over two weeks while awaiting transfer.

In addition to holding roughly 30 percent of minor detainees for longer than 72 hours, several Rio Grande Valley facilities struggled to meet other TEDS standards for UACs and families.

For example, children at three of the five Border Patrol facilities the Inspector General visited had no access to showers, despite the TEDS standards requiring that "reasonable efforts" be made to provide showers to children approaching 48 hours in detention.

At these facilities, children had limited access to a change of clothes; Border Patrol had few spare clothes for the children and no laundry facilities. While all facilities had infant formula, diapers, baby wipes, and juice and snacks for children, the Inspector General observed that two facilities had not provided children access to hot meals—as is required by the TEDS standards—until the week the Inspector General arrived.

Instead, the children were fed sandwiches and snacks for their meals. Additionally, while Border Patrol tried to provide the least restrictive setting available for children (e.g., by leaving holding room doors open), the limited space for medical isolation resulted in some UACs and families being held in closed cells.

These investigations and reports provide just a snapshot of the work the Office of Inspector General under the Department of Homeland Security does. Time and time again, they have shone a much-needed light on affairs that are all of public interest.

It is for that reason Mr. Speaker I strongly support H.R. 5633.

It will hold all decision makers accountable and force their actions to be submitted not only to Congress, but the court of public opinion as well.

This bill prioritizes both transparency and accountability, so I urge my colleagues to support this critical piece of legislation.

REPORTING EFFICIENTLY TO
PROPER OFFICIALS IN RE-
SPONSE TO TERRORISM ACT OF
2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1540, the Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act of 2021 or the REPORT Act.

The purpose of this bill is to provide reports to Congress that are jointly developed by relevant federal agencies regarding incidents of terrorism.

This bill requires the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whenever an incident of terrorism occurs in the United States, to submit to Congress an unclassified report upon completion of the investigation by the primary U.S. government agency conducting the investigation concerning the incident.

The report should contain:

1. A statement of the facts of the incident that are known at the time of the report.
2. Any recommendations for changes in practices or law, consistent with the Constitution, with particular attention to changes that could help prevent future incidents of terrorism.

The bipartisan bill requires the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department, the FBI, and/or the National Counterterrorism Center to work together to submit a report to Congress after a foreign or domestic terrorist attack, which must include an explanation of what happened, any gaps in national security, and recommendations for additional measures to improve homeland security and prevent future terrorist attacks.

After a terrorist attack, federal agencies will be required to report to Congress with information about exactly what happened and recommendations to prevent future attacks.

The first priority of government should be making sure that all Americans are safe, secure, and free.

The 9/11 attack on American soil on September 11, 2001 took the lives of nearly 3,000 innocent civilians and since that day, the role of virtually every federal, state, and local law enforcement agency changed.

The 9/11 attack remains a tragedy that defines our nation's history. But the final chapter will be written by those who are charged with keeping our nation and people safe while preserving the way of life that terrorists sought to change.

On January 6, 2021, during a joint session of Congress, a mob breached the U.S. Capitol, illegally entering the complex, violent par-

ticipants, incited by the former President's rhetoric, injured scores of D.C. Police and U.S. Capitol Police officers—killing one, while four civilians also died.

The escalation in violent domestic attacks since the January 6 attack has been felt by our nation's law enforcement officers, as well as others which is evidenced by the rise in murder and assaults across the nation.

Today, we find ourselves in a nation where the terrorism landscape is more complex, it is imperative that we recognize and communicate the evolving and unorthodox nature of the terrorism threats we face today.

This bill is the most effective way for us to protect our country through solid reporting and communicating.

To prevent terrorist attacks and ensure efficiency and effectiveness in responding to an attack, agencies need to coordinate with each other to determine what went wrong so that we can strengthen our counterterrorism efforts moving forward.

Congress must have all available information to make the most informed policy decisions following a terrorist attack.

The REPORT Act ensures that members of Congress will receive the full accounting of the facts, so that they can hold federal agencies accountable.

Information sharing with both Congress and the American people, is a vital element of preventing, and responding to, terrorism.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1540 because our mission has been and will continue to be focused on preventing and preparing for all issues surrounding terrorism.

We owe a debt to those who have lost their lives and we must do all that we can to prevent another attack on United States soil.

DHS ILLICIT CROSS-BORDER
TUNNEL DEFENSE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4209, the "Department of Homeland Security Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act."

This bill authorizes for FY2022 and FY2023 U.S. Customs and Border Protection activities to identify and close tunnels criminals use to illegally cross our Southern Border.

This bill also directs the Customs and Border Patrol to develop and report to Congress a strategic plan to improve tunnel closures.

According to Customs and Border Patrol, Cross-border tunnels are dug by transnational criminal organizations to smuggle contraband into the U.S. from neighboring countries. Current detection capabilities rely on random tips and the laborious collection of human intelligence (HUMINT).

When tunnels are discovered, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement have limited ability to access the tunnel to arrest and prosecute those involved in creating and using the tunnel.

The reason behind such limited ability is because Customs and Border Patrol lack the needed fiscal resources needed to combat

tunnel construction and usage. This bill aims to ameliorate that problem.

Mr. Speaker, after considering statements from Customs and Border Patrol, it is clear that people seeking a better life do not use illegal tunnels to achieve such ends. The tunnels are instead used by those seeking to wreak havoc and bring crime into our communities, with no other purpose.

For example, upon discovery of a 183-foot-long subterranean tunnel in Mexicali, Baja California, near the international border, Cardell T. Morant, special agent in charge of HSI San Diego said, "These types of tunnels enable drug traffickers to conduct illicit activities virtually undetected across the U.S.-Mexico border."

Morant continued, "Discovering and shutting down these tunnels deals a major blow to drug trafficking organizations because it denies them the ability to smuggle drugs, weapons and people across the border."

That tunnel had an entrance measuring 12 feet by 10 feet and extended 3 feet north of the international border wall but had no exit on the U.S. side of the border, apparently creating temporary exits on an ad hoc basis.

The Drug Trafficking Organization who designed it equipped the tunnel with electricity, ventilation, a rail system with a cart, and an electric hoist.

Mr. Speaker, these tunnels, even if they are only open for a short period, can allow traffickers to move massive amounts of drugs, humans, currency, and firearms back-and-forth between Mexico and the United States.

As Chair of the Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Committee, I am committed to ensuring our internal and homeland security. Fighting these criminals at every turn is critical to achieving of that objective, and this bill provides the CBP additional tools for that purpose.

I am therefore proud to support H.R. 4209, the "Department of Homeland Security Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act" and urge my colleagues to as well.

DHS TRADE AND ECONOMIC
SECURITY COUNCIL ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4476, the "Department of Homeland Security Trade and Economic Security Council Act of 2021."

This bill establishes the DHS Trade and Economic Security Council, which shall provide trade and economic security advice and recommendations to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

This includes identifying high priority risks and setting priorities for protecting the nation's trade and economic security.

The bill also establishes the position of Assistant Secretary for Trade and Economic Security within DHS's Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans.

Mr. Speaker, the mission of the Department of Homeland Security is to secure the nation from the many threats we face.

Those threats encompass not only threats abroad but also at home, and our economic security is integral to national security.

Securing our economy means we will have safeguards in place to help prevent another economic disaster like the one brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, from which countless Americans suffered.

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic fallout caused significant hardship. In the early months of the crisis, tens of millions of people lost their jobs.

While employment began to rebound within a few months, unemployment remained high throughout 2020.

Improving employment and substantial relief measures helped reduce the very high levels of hardship seen in the summer of 2020.

Nonetheless, considerable unmet needs remained near the end of 2021, with 20 million households reporting having too little to eat in the past seven days and 10 million households behind on rent.

In early 2022, some 3 million fewer people are employed than before the pandemic, though steady progress has been made, including in recent months.

Hardship in 2020 and 2021 would have been far worse without the extraordinary steps taken by the federal government, states, and localities to respond to the pandemic and its economic fallout.

Key hardship indicators showed strong improvement during early 2021, aided by job growth and government benefits.

Hardship rates fell especially fast thanks to the American Rescue Plan enacted on March 11, 2021, which included \$1,400 payments for most Americans as well as other assistance to struggling households.

Food hardship among adults with children also fell after the federal government began issuing monthly payments of the enhanced and expanded Child Tax Credit, which was first distributed on July 15, 2021, along with improvements in food assistance.

While those measures taken by the Biden Administration were swift and, I believe, life-saving, much of the suffering the American people went through could have been mitigated through extensive planning.

This bill provides those means, which drives my support. No more Americans should suffer because the federal government refused to plan in the case of a disaster.

The DHS Trade and Economic Security Council Act of 2021 is a legislative embodiment of that understanding, so I am proud to support it. I urge my colleagues to as well.

RESILIENT ASSISTANCE FOR MITIGATION FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION BY AMERICANS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

MS. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5689, the Resilient Assistance for Mitigation for Environmentally Resilient Infrastructure and Construction by Americans Act or the Resilient AMERICA Act.

This bill bolsters U.S. disaster resilience and expands resources and strategies for hazard mitigation by state, local, tribal, territorial governments, and some nonprofit organizations.

The bill permits the redistribution of hazard mitigation funds that are unclaimed or unobligated for use in addressing a future major disaster.

The legislation also increases from 6 percent to 15 percent the estimated aggregate amount of grants made for national public infrastructure pre-disaster mitigation assistance so that we're better prepared to respond to disasters.

It also makes private nonprofit facilities eligible for technical and financial assistance in the implementation of cost-effective pre-disaster hazard mitigation measures.

The overall effect would be to expand the use of hazard mitigation assistance to cover certain activities pertaining to wildfires, tsunamis, and ice storms.

Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must set aside 10 percent of the funds annually to update relevant building codes on which consensus has been reached.

FEMA must also carry out a pilot program through which states and localities award grants to individuals for retrofitting their residences with appropriate hazard mitigation measures.

This legislation will build on the resilience initiatives contained in the recent bipartisan infrastructure law and provide additional tools to reduce risks posed by the changing climate.

For every dollar invested in resilience and predisaster mitigation, the taxpayer receives anywhere from \$3.00 to \$11.00 in return.

The Resilient AMERICA Act returns unspent funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), which ensures that these expiring and unspent funds will still help our communities prepare for and respond to disasters.

This bill doubles the funding stream dedicated to FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation program and extends eligibility for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) to include private nonprofits (PNPs), which ultimately will reduce the impact and damage from a disaster.

It also expands the reach of the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to prevent utility outages in the face of extreme wildfire, wind, tsunami, and ice events.

It additionally funds residential resilience retrofit block grants to states, tribes, and territories to strengthen homes for maximum protection and safety.

It is clear that climate change is making extreme weather more intense and severe.

The snow and ice that unleashed a cascading effect of power and water outages in Texas and surrounding states was caused by a series of rare winter storms in 2021 and 2022.

My constituents were without potable water weeks after the storm, a lot of this damage was a direct consequence of a decades-long failure to maintain and upgrade our essential infrastructure.

We cannot leave our constituents living in mold-ridden homes, in the freezing cold, awaiting implementation of better, large-scale infrastructure.

We need our federal agencies and state governments to be proactive, anticipating potential infrastructure failures and working quickly to resolve them before Americans pay the price of our aged infrastructure.

This will reduce risk, save costs and encourage long-term planning and proactivity, rather

than on-the-fly response to the impending challenges to our infrastructure.

Storms are inevitable, but they don't need to become life, threatening disasters.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 5689 because we all deserve better protection from the things we know are coming.

UPHOLDING THE FOUNDING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND ESTABLISHING A CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 831, which reaffirms unequivocal support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as an alliance founded on democratic principles.

This resolution also calls on the President to use the voice and vote of the United States to adopt a new Strategic Concept for NATO that is clear about its support for shared democratic values and committed to enhancing NATO's capacity to strengthen democratic institutions within NATO member, partner, and aspirant countries.

Finally, the resolution calls on the President to use the voice and vote of the United States to establish a Center for Democratic Resilience within NATO headquarters.

First, I would like to commend all Ukrainians for their outstanding courage, resilience, fortitude, and bravery. It is truly inspiring for Americans, and for people around the world. America stands with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

Russia's launch of a premeditated war against Ukraine is an attack on democracy and a grave violation of international law, global peace, and security.

The fighting has sparked massive displacement and has forced over two million Ukrainians to flee their homes to neighboring states and has put women and girls at heightened risk of violence.

Although the world hopes for peace, Russia's invasion of Ukraine shows no signs of ending. Russian forces continue their bombardment of Ukrainian cities, including the capital, Kyiv, and the southern port city of Mariupol.

Additionally, as a body we must condemn the recent execution style killings of Ukrainians in Bucha.

It is abundantly clear that Russian soldiers were out to torture, rape, and kill innocent Ukrainian civilians. These actions amount to war crimes, and we must treat them as such.

Therefore, along with the President I believe we must hold Russian authorities and President Putin accountable before the International Criminal Court via a War Crimes trial.

This will bring the justice so greatly deserved to those families who lost their mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters to savagery. I additionally believe that this is a good first action under NATO's new Strategic Concept, which this bill seeks to redefine.

Considering the direness of the situation in Ukraine, it is absolutely critical that NATO

powers continue to bind together in opposition to President Putin's soulless actions.

Adopting a new Strategic Concept and establishing a Center for Democratic Resilience will further display to Putin and those like him that the West will not back down to autocrats and dictators.

I therefore am proud to support H. Res 831, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4738 COVID-19 AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4738, the "COVID-19 American History Project Act."

This bill directs the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to establish the COVID-19 American History Project which will collect and make publicly available individual stories and records of experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

The bill includes a requirement to collect video and audio histories and testimonials of those who were affected by the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, the United States will soon reach a grave milestone. As of 9 o'clock this morning, there have been 974,277 American deaths from COVID-19. In the coming weeks, we will reach 1,000,000 deaths.

However, I believe that only focusing on that horrific number, though nonetheless important, makes us forget about who we lost.

Therefore, with this time I would like to tell the stories of my fellow Houstonians who sadly passed because of this unprecedented public health crisis.

The stories I will be recounting are all courtesy of Houston Public Media, of whose journalists I have been a strong supporter.

Knowing that his daughter would be unable to walk at her college graduation commencement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Carlos Araujo-Preza threw his daughter, Andreea Araujo, a belated graduation celebration with her close friends and family in late October. She said he really put in the effort to give her the best ceremony he could.

Dr. Araujo-Preza always went out of his way to make sure his daughter and her brother were taken care of, despite a busy work schedule at Tomball Regional Hospital. The siblings and their father spent their weekends together binge-watching movies and TV shows together.

But in 2020, Andrea Araujo was forced to spend her 23rd birthday without her father.

Araujo-Preza was two weeks away from receiving his first round of the COVID-19 vaccine before he passed away. He died Nov. 30, 2020, at the age of 51.

He knew at a young age he was meant to pursue a career in the medical field. Coming from a family of doctors himself, Araujo-Preza was viewed as a loving caregiver and someone his patients could always rely on.

Araujo-Preza was the leading doctor at his hospital who specialized in plasma research, while also distributing COVID-19 vaccines to nurses.

"His colleagues were fans of him," she said. "They loved when he came into work."

He would go out of his way to give his personal phone number to patients and would accommodate their needs at any time of day. Araujo said her father would wake up as early as 3 a.m. to go into work. Araujo-Preza would sleep in the hospital for days and sometimes weeks at a time to always be on call for his patients.

Now, Araujo said she tries to live by a saying her father used to share in Spanish: "The sun always rises the next day." Araujo-Preza would tell his children to not let daily challenges in life hold them back. Because, he said, as life goes on, you should too.

"I feel like people always say, 'with time, things get better', but I've noticed it's quite the opposite," she said. "Every day gets harder."

That story was courtesy of Emily Jaroszewski at Houston Public Media.

The next story is one that is especially close to my heart: Dick Cigler from the University of Houston.

Those who were mentored by Dick Cigler would tell you he left a lasting impression as one of the most influential staff members at the Daily Cougar—a highly regarded champion of free speech at the University of Houston's newspaper.

"He taught us about the importance of journalism," said Tanya Eiserer, an Emmy-award winning reporter for WFAA in Dallas and former Daily Cougar student editor. "He really taught us the importance of doing the right thing, doing it for the right reasons, and standing up for the underdog."

Nowhere was that more evident than when, in the 1990s, a group of UH journalists wrote a series of articles challenging the decreased university budget for UH downtown students and the increased budget for subsidiary campuses.

Dick allowed the students to voice their concerns brazenly.

"He didn't try to, you know, tell us to back down," Eiserer said. "He ran interference, and they knew that we were an independent news operation."

Eiserer remembers Cigler as being a listening ear and a guiding mentor when she transferred from Baylor University to UH. She regarded him as one of the people who helped her become the reporter she is today.

"I learned how to be a journalist at the Daily Cougar," said Eiserer. "I would not give that time back for all the money in the world."

Cigler worked as Director of UH's Student Publications department, now known as the Center for Student Media, for 23 years until his retirement in 2010.

His impact on the Daily Cougar can be felt to this day.

Cigler died on Jan. 24, 2021, at the age of 79. He leaves behind his two daughters Kerri Runge and Michelle Cigler.

That story was courtesy of Myraket Baker at Houston Public Media.

The last individual I want to mention is someone who is a local hero but should be a national one. That person was John Bland.

More than 60 years ago, a group of Texas Southern University students took seats at the lunch counter at Weingarten's Supermarket at 4110 Alameda Road, knowing they wouldn't be served.

It was Houston's first sit-in, and that spring, Black college students in cities across the country forced the beginning of an end to racial segregation—at lunch counters, department stores, and city halls.

One of the TSU students at the sit-in was John Bland, a 20-year-old who spent the rest of his life working to advance civil rights and equal opportunity.

Bland worked as a bus operator at HouTran, now called Metro, and he spent more than 50 years organizing with the Transport Workers Union. He served as a vice president of the Texas State AFL-CIO, a president of the Houston chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, a precinct judge, and a member of the Houston Police Department Citizen Review Committee.

"When workers would doubt their ability to beat the odds and make change, Mr. Bland would say, 'When we fought for integration in the 1960s, they arrested me 27 times, jailed me, and fined me, but that didn't stop us,'" Hany Khalil, Executive Director of the Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation, said.

Bland died on July 9, 2020, at the age of 80. He leaves behind his wife, Betty Davis Bland, and their two daughters and grandson.

That story was courtesy of Jen Rice at Houston Public Media.

I wish I could mention every Houstonian and honor their lives because they all deserve it. They were mothers, wives, fathers, husbands, sons, daughters, and so much more. They will all be missed and are not just another number.

It is for that reason, Madam Speaker, that I strongly support H.R. 4738 and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

IN MEMORY AND PRAISE OF GREGORY ALAN BERRY A PERSON DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of this body and the Committee on the Judiciary, I want to offer praise and a message of appreciation for a beloved man, who served as a member of my personal staff in service of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, located in the city of Houston.

He was a member of the baby boom generation that directly benefited from and was inspired by the work of President John F. Kennedy, President Lyndon Banes Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and many other leaders that worked for equality and justice for all.

I am proud but heart-broken to later today participate in a tribute to his service in the U.S. House of Representatives, because Gregory Berry is an American original, my friend and valued member of my staff who died on March 15, 2022, at the age of 66 years old.

Gregory Alan Berry, long-time legislative counsel in the U.S. House of Representatives, died unexpectedly from hypertension on March 15, 2022, at his home in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Greg was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 16, 1956, the second son of Jesse Frank Berry and Bonnie Allena Berry. His father preceded him in death. He is survived by

his mother; his two sons, Michael Jeffrey Berry and Connor Sias Berry, and their mother Elva Bowden Berry; his two brothers, Jeffrey (Donene) and Michael Berry, his sister, Bonnie Berry LaMon (André); two nieces, one nephew, two great-nieces, one great-nephew, five aunts and four uncles.

When Greg was four years old, his family moved to California where he attended various schools including Saddleback High School in Santa Ana. He graduated from Evergreen High School in Seattle after his family moved there the summer before his senior year.

Greg played both baseball and football in high school but was best known for his copious understanding of current political events, his debate skills, and his ability to recite on-demand the famous speeches of Abraham Lincoln and other seminal politicians and orators. Greg graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Business Administration. In 1980, he obtained his J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Greg began his career as a Senior Attorney-Advisor in the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Hearing Appeals, where he received the DOE Special Achievement Award for superior performance and sustained excellence and originality in legal analysis, research, and writing.

Four years later he became a Senior Trial Attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where he received several Special Achievement and High Quality Awards as well as Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Performance.

Greg excelled at both these positions, but the call on his heart and mind since the early 1960s had always been American politics.

In 1989 he answered that call by matriculating into the University of Michigan Political Science Department. He graduated in 1991 with an M.A. in American Politics and Government, and within two years thereafter had completed all coursework and qualifying exams in connection with a Ph.D. from the same program.

While still a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan, Greg accepted a position as Visiting Lecturer of Political Science at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

He taught several courses in American national government, politics, and American political thought.

The University of Canterbury offered him a full-time position and he returned to the University of Michigan where he taught introductory and advanced courses in American politics, government, political theory, race and politics, and political communication.

He then taught similar courses at James Madison University, in Virginia, before accepting a position as Legal Writing Professor at Howard University School of Law (HUSL), in Washington, D.C.

At HUSL he taught litigation related courses, Legal Reasoning, Research and Writing, Appellate Advocacy, and Legal Methods.

He was the Faculty Advisor to an award-winning National Moot Court Team and was voted "Law Professor of the Year" in 2003, and several times received the Warren S. Romarin Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service.

In 2006, Greg "entered Congress" as my Legislative Director/Senior Policy Adviser.

I knew then that I had found an extraordinary mind to serve in my personal office and the Hill had a great scholar who would contribute to the work of this great democracy.

Gregory over the years, also served as Legislative Counsel to Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA).

At the time of his passing Greg had worked for nine years as my Chief Counsel and Legislative Director.

He enjoyed developing, drafting, and managing legislation for the Appropriations, Judiciary, Foreign Affairs, Transportation & Infrastructure, Homeland Security, Science, and Rules Committees.

He negotiated with senior staff officials in the House leadership and standing committees, frequently on behalf of the office.

He sat in countless meetings with Executive Department officials at the federal and state level, and often met with lobbyists and policy entrepreneurs to garner support for important legislative initiatives.

He especially enjoyed writing statements and speeches for delivery in committee hearings and markups; before the Rules Committee and on the House floor; in the congressional district, across the nation, and abroad; and for print, electronic, and online media.

In his capacity as Legislative Director, Greg thrived on supervising, mentoring, and training the junior staff of legislative assistants, correspondents, and interns.

Greg was also a kind hearted person who treated everyone with dignity and respect.

His family is exceedingly grateful to Greg's colleagues and friends on the Hill for sharing his love of public service in the United States House of Representatives because he was able to spend the last sixteen years of his life steeped in the political world which unrelentingly captured his imagination as a young boy.

A fitting and proper means of paying tribute to Gregory Berry's extraordinary life is to join with family, friends and co-workers to salute this great democracy, which he loved without ceasing through his years of dedicated service.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory and thanks of Gregory Alan Berry, the three year old boy who visited the Capitol with his mother who returned to work in the job that gave him immense joy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.